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ABSTRACT

The education and employment of Kansas Hispanics in public, elementary and secondary schools were examined, utilizing 1980 data from the U.S. Census Bureau and 1979 data from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Data pertained to 18 counties located in western, central, and eastern Kansas: Finney, Ford, Grant, Seward, Sherman, Harvey, Reno, Saline, Sedgwick, Sumner, Douglas, Geary, Johnson, Leavenworth, Lyon, Riley, Shawnee, and Wyandotte. These counties, which accounted for about 80% of Kansas' Hispanic population, were selected because they had cities with 1,000 or more Hispanics or had cities with 5% or more Hispanic concentration. Data demonstrated that: Kansas Hispanics tended to have lower educational attainment levels and graduation and school enrollment rates when compared to the total population; Hispanics were underrepresented as teachers, counselors, and administrators; Hispanic educational attainment levels were higher in eastern Kansas than in western and central Kansas; the median years of school completed for Hispanics in Douglas County was 15.3 years compared to 13.5 years for the total population; 17.3% of Hispanic adults in Sherman County were high school graduates compared to 72.2% of the total population; and the low participation rate of Hispanics in education was more pronounced at the university and college levels. (NQA)

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EDUCATION PROFILE OF KANSAS HISPANICS

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Estimados Amigos:

The Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican American Affairs (KACMAA) has prepared the following report, Education Profile of Kansas Hispanics. The report examines the condition of education for Kansas Hispanics, focusing on 1980 data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the 1979 data from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The report demonstrates that Kansas Hispanics tend to have lower educational attainment levels, graduation rates and school enrollment rates when compared to the total population. In addition, the report presents evidence that Hispanics are not only grossly underrepresented as students in the system, but also as teachers, counselors and administrators.

The information provided in the report should initiate action in the form of policy and legislative change to alleviate the educational gap for Kansas Hispanics.

Atentamente,

James M. Apodaca
Executive Director

JMA:jtb

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

1. Introduction....1
2. Western Kansas....2
3. Central Kansas....4
4. Eastern Kansas....6
5. Summary of Educational Status and School Enrollment Data....8
6. Hispanic Employment in Public Schools....9
7. Appendix A....10
8. Appendix B....11
9. List of Works Consulted....12

LIST OF TABLES

Table

A. Percent Enrolled in School for Selected Western Kansas Counties in 1980....2
B. 1980 Education Levels for Adults in Selected Western Kansas Counties....3
C. Percent Enrolled in School for Selected Central Kansas Counties in 1980....4
D. 1980 Education Levels for Adults in Central Kansas Counties....5
E. Percent Enrolled in School for Selected Eastern Kansas Counties in 1980....6
F. 1980 Education Levels for Adults in Selected Eastern Kansas Counties....7
G. Percent of Hispanic Adults Who Are High School Graduates....8
H. Average Median Years of School Completed....8
I. Percent of Hispanics Enrolled In School....8
J. Occupational Employment In Kansas Public School....9
K. Cities With 1,000 Or More Hispanics....10
L. Cities With 5% Or More Hispanic Concentration....10

EDUCATION PROFILE OF KANSAS HISPANICS

In Kansas, Hispanics tend to have lower educational attainment levels and graduation rates when compared to the total population. According to the 1980 Census, approximately 1,257 Hispanic persons 16 to 19 years of age were not in high school or had not graduated from high school. This constituted a "drop out" rate of 21.8 percent for this age group. This can be compared to an attrition rate of 11.3 percent for all persons 16 to 19 years in 1980.

The unsatisfactory condition of education for Kansas Hispanic youth is matched by a similar situation with the respect to the adult Hispanic population. Census data from 1980 indicate low educational attainment by Kansas Hispanics. In 1980, 53 percent of Hispanic adults (25 years old or older) were high school graduates, compared to 61 percent for the black population and 74 percent for the white population.

There have been many reasons suggested for the low educational attainment levels and graduation rates. For instance, Hispanics face language barriers in an educational system, which is unable, or perhaps unwilling, to maximize the language and cultural differences among students. Furthermore, education beyond high school requires time and money -- commodities not always available in Hispanic communities and families. The prospect of paying or incurring substantial debt for four years of college overwhelms the initiative for further education. These factors tend to undermine the importance of education for Hispanics.

The following report focuses on the education of Kansas Hispanics in 18 counties. These counties were selected because they have cities with 1,000 or more Hispanics or have cities with 5 percent or more Hispanic concentration. (See Table K and Table L on page 10.) These 18 counties account for about 80 percent of the Hispanic population in Kansas. In addition, the report includes a section discussing the employment of Hispanics in public, elementary and secondary schools.

The 1980 Census figures indicate that Hispanic educational attainment levels were higher in eastern Kansas than in western and central Kansas in 1980. In fact, in Douglas County, the median years of school completed for Hispanics was 15.3 years in 1980, compared to 13.5 years for the total population. Furthermore, 85.6 percent of Douglas County Hispanic adults were high school graduates, compared to 82.3 percent for the total population.

Even though these figures for Douglas County are positive and above the norm, figures in western Kansas remain excessively low. For example, only 17.3 percent of Hispanic adults in Sherman County were high school graduates in 1980, compared to 72.2 percent of the total population. In addition, the median years of education for Hispanic adults in Sherman County was 6.1 years, compared to 12.5 years for the total population.

Western Kansas

This section discusses educational information on five western counties of Kansas: Finney, Ford, Grant, Seward and Sherman. All counties, excluding Sherman, are located in the southwest corner of Kansas. Sherman County is located in the northwest corner of Kansas. These five counties comprised almost 13 percent of the Kansas Hispanic population in 1980.

Hispanics first came to western Kansas to work in the sugar beet industry and farm labor jobs. Hispanics, mainly of Mexican descent, comprised almost the entire labor force of western Kansas farmworkers, contributing to the livelihood of all Kansans. The high geographical mobility caused by the seasonal farmwork rendered school attendance on a year-round basis impossible for the first generation of Hispanics in western Kansas. In 1980 when most Hispanics in the area had moved out of the farmworker/migrant stream, low educational status for Hispanics was still the rule.

School Enrollment Data

The following table indicates that in 1980, Hispanics in the five western Kansas counties had a lower percent of students enrolled in school than the total population. The percent going to school declined as age increased for all groups. The decline, however, was more dramatic for Hispanics.

The school enrollment data point to two disturbing trends for Hispanics in western Kansas: Hispanics enroll in school at rates lower than the majority of the population (especially concerning higher education institutions) and their attrition rates are higher than those of most students.

Table A

Percent Enrolled in School
For Selected Western Kansas Counties in 1980

	Age Group		
	16-17 years	18-19 years	20-21 years
Finney County			
Hispanics	72.3%	27.4%	4.7%
All Races	72.0%	45.6%	16.8%
Ford County			
Hispanics	73.4%	37.2%	30.0%
All Races	91.1%	58.9%	35.3%
Grant County			
Hispanics	61.6%	0.0%	22.2%
All Races	71.6%	26.0%	8.7%
Seward County			
Hispanics	42.3%	12.5%	1.9%
All Races	86.3%	37.9%	10.8%
Sherman County			
Hispanics	78.6%	22.7%	0.0%
All Races	89.4%	66.0%	2.6%

Adult Educational Attainment Data

As mentioned earlier in this report, the unsatisfactory condition of education for Hispanic youth is matched by a similar situation with respect to the adult Hispanic population. The 1980 Census data, which indicate low educational attainment for Hispanics as compared to the total population in five western Kansas counties, matches national education data on Hispanics.

The table below indicates that, across the board, Hispanic adults have achieved a lower level of education than the total population. The gap between Hispanics and the total population reached an exceptional high in 1980 in Sherman County. Only 17.3 percent of Hispanic adults (25 years or older) of Sherman County had graduated from high school, compared to 72.2 percent for the total population of Sherman County.

Table B

1980 Education Levels for Adults
in Selected Western Kansas Counties

	Percent High School Graduates		Median Years of School Completed	
County	Hispanic	All Races	Hispanics	All Races
Finney	33.7%	71.2%	9.2 years	12.6 years
Ford	49.8%	73.7%	12.0 years	12.6 years
Grant	23.2%	69.4%	8.0 years	12.5 years
Seward	26.7%	70.9%	8.7 years	12.5 years
Sherman	17.3%	72.2%	6.1 years	12.5 years

Central Kansas

This section discusses educational information on five central Kansas counties: Harvey, Reno, Saline, Sedgwick and Sumner. These six counties accounted for 25.8 percent of the Hispanic population of Kansas in 1980.

The influx of Hispanics to central Kansas was influenced by the growth of the railroads and the need for labor during and after World War I. With some exceptions, first generation Mexicans in Kansas had little formal education and relied on the Spanish Language. They lived together in colonies, or barrios, removed from main society. The Hispanic children advanced socially and educationally through the parochial schools.

However, the educational status for central Kansas Hispanics in 1980 was still below the status of the total population. Hispanics attended educational institutions at a lower rate and adult Hispanics' educational achievement levels were still below the majority of the population.

School Enrollment Data

The table below indicates that Hispanics in central Kansas, like in the western half of the state, had a lower proportion of students enrolled in school in 1980, when compared to the total population. Central Kansas rates, however, are not quite as dramatic from the total population as the rates for central Kansas Hispanics. In fact, in Saline County the Hispanic rates for persons 16-17 years and 18-19 years were slightly above those of the total population.

Table C

Percent Enrolled in School
For Selected Central Kansas Counties in 1980

	Age Group		
	16-17 years	18-19 years	20-21 years
Harvey County			
Hispanics	89.2%	53.8%	4.4%
All Races	88.7%	61.6%	38.6%
Reno County			
Hispanics	78.9%	80.0%	3.9%
All Races	87.8%	51.4%	23.5%
Saline County			
Hispanics	88.6%	53.7%	25.0%
All Races	88.0%	57.5%	29.6%
Sedgwick County			
Hispanics	77.4%	21.5%	17.1%
All Races	85.1%	39.6%	24.6%
Sumner County			
Hispanics	92.0%	43.5%	20.9%
All Races	93.4%	39.6%	11.4%

Adult Educational Attainment Data

The 1980 census data indicate low educational attainment levels for Hispanic adults as compared to the total population of the five central Kansas counties. In comparison to western Kansas Hispanics, central Kansas adult Hispanics had a higher educational attainment level and higher years of school completed.

Table D

1980 Education Levels for Adults
in Central Kansas Counties

	Percent High School Graduates		Median Years of School Completed	
County	Hispanics	All Races	Hispanics	All Races
Harvey	59.9%	72.7%	12.2 years	12.6 years
Reno	42.0%	71.4%	10.9 years	13.2 years
Saline	40.3%	76.4%	10.4 years	12.6 years
Sedgwick	56.1%	76.5%	12.2 years	12.7 years
Sumner	46.9%	68.4%	11.0 years	12.4 years

Eastern Kansas

Educational information on eight eastern Kansas counties is discussed in this section. The counties included are Douglas, Geary, Johnson, Leavenworth, Lyon, Riley, Shawnee and Wyandotte; all, excluding Lyon, are located in the northeast corner of the state. These counties accounted for 41 percent of the Hispanic population in 1980.

Like in central Kansas, the majority of Hispanics first migrated to eastern Kansas to work in the railroad industry. However, in eastern Kansas the Hispanic population managed to close the education gap between themselves and the total population, as far as a high school education was concerned. They have a higher percent of high school graduates in comparison to Hispanics in western and central Kansas, averaging 15 percentage points higher than Hispanics in central Kansas and 36 percentage points higher than Hispanics in western Kansas.

Educational levels in eastern Kansas, for the most part, remained below the total population in 1980. This was not the case, however, for Douglas and Johnson Counties. In fact for both of these counties, the median years of school completed was higher for the Hispanic population in comparison to the total population. In Johnson County and Douglas County, the median years of school completed for Hispanics was 15.3 years. The median years of school completed for the population as a whole was 13.5 years in Douglas County and 13.8 years in Johnson County.

One reason for the high educational attainment levels for Douglas and Johnson Counties could be the high percentage of "Other Spanish" individuals in these counties. "Other Spanish" consists of Hispanics who have ancestors from Spain, South America and Central America. Data from the National Center for Education Statistics (1978) indicate that the Hispanic subgroup with the highest educational attainment level is "Other Spanish". On the other hand, the subgroup with the lowest educational attainment level is Mexican American. The subgroup of "Other Spanish" is also known to have had a greater opportunity in education as compared to other Hispanic subgroups.

In 1980, 79 percent of Kansas Hispanics designated themselves as coming from Mexican origin; 15 percent designated themselves as "Other Spanish"; and the remaining 6 percent designated themselves as either Cuban or Puerto Rican. However, Douglas County consisted of 52.8 percent Mexican American, 39.4 percent "Other Spanish", 5.0 percent Puerto Rican and 2.8 percent Cuban in 1980. Johnson County consisted of 65.3 percent Mexican American, 25.9 percent "Other Spanish", 3.4 percent Puerto Rican and 5.4 percent Cuban in 1980.

School Enrollment Data

In eastern Kansas, the school enrollment rates were, for the most part, higher for the total population than Hispanics. Three counties -- Leavenworth, Shawnee and Wyandotte -- had a higher enrollment rate for all three age groups than the total population. The following table details the school enrollment rates for the eight eastern Kansas counties.

Table E

Percent Enrolled in School
For Selected Eastern Kansas Counties in 1980

	Age Group		
	16-17 years	18-19 years	20-21 years
Douglas County			
Hispanics	60.0%	80.6%	77.9%
All Races	92.6%	85.0%	83.6%
Geary County			
Hispanics	64.4%	10.0%	10.0%
All Races	79.0%	17.9%	4.1%

Table E

Percent Enrolled in School
For Selected Eastern Kansas Counties in 1980, continued

	16-17 years	18-19 years	20-21 years
Johnson County			
Hispanics	89.1%	45.3%	41.4%
All Races	94.5%	56.4%	31.7%
Leavenworth County			
Hispanics	100.0%	47.3%	28.1%
All Races	91.1%	42.3%	14.3%
Riley County			
Hispanics	82.1%	32.1%	28.1%
All Races	84.8%	59.4%	54.9%
Shawnee County			
Hispanics	88.6%	53.7%	25.0%
All Races	86.4%	43.0%	22.5%
Wyandotte County			
Hispanics	94.9%	48.6%	28.1%
All Races	86.9%	40.2%	17.8%
Lyon County			
Hispanic	88.2%	30.8%	30.1%
All Races	87.6%	70.6%	63.5%

Adult Educational Attainment Data

As mentioned earlier, educational attainment for eastern Kansas was high when compared to western and central Kansas. The following table details graduation rates and median years of school for Hispanics and the total population in eight eastern counties of Kansas.

Table F

1980 Education Levels for Adults
in Selected Eastern Kansas Counties

	Percent High School Graduates		Median Years of School Completed	
County	Hispanics	All Races	Hispanics	All Races
Douglas	85.6%	82.3%	15.3 years	13.5 years
Geary	74.3%	74.2%	12.5 years	12.5 years
Johnson	80.8%	88.8%	15.3 years	13.8 years
Leavenworth	59.8%	72.1%	12.3 years	12.5 years
Riley	82.4%	85.5%	12.8 years	13.0 years
Shawnee	56.0%	78.3%	12.2 years	12.7 years
Wyandotte	47.7%	61.8%	11.6 years	12.3 years
Lyon	44.5%	76.4%	11.4 years	12.7 years

Summary of Educational Status and School Enrollment Data

The census data presented in this report demonstrate that Hispanics had lower educational attainment levels and graduation rates in 1980 than the majority of the Kansas population. This is particularly significant because of the important role education plays in one's life. Education affects the subsequent success in employment, income and many other aspects of life.

Results from this study show that Hispanics from eastern Kansas counties fared better in education than Hispanics from the western and central counties. All sections, however, had a lower rate of high school graduates when compared to the total population. The chart below, which gives the percent of high school graduates and the average median years of school completed for each section of Kansas, compares rates for Hispanics and all races.

Table G — Percent of Hispanic Adults Who Are High School Graduates

	Hispanics	All Races
Western Kansas	30.0%	71.4%
Central Kansas	49.0%	73.0%
Eastern Kansas	66.0%	77.4%

Table H — Average Median Years of School Completed

	Hispanics	All Races
Western Kansas	8.8 yrs.	12.5 yrs.
Central Kansas	11.3 yrs.	12.7 yrs.
Eastern Kansas	12.9 yrs.	12.9 yrs.

The percent of Hispanics enrolled in school in 1980 was also lower than the percent for the total population. This data point to two disturbing trends: Hispanics enroll in school at rates lower than the majority of the population and attrition rates for Hispanics are higher than those of most students. These two trends need to be addressed by Kansas officials in our educational system.

The low participation rate of Hispanics in education was more pronounced at the university and college levels. Overall, Hispanics had lower proportions of students enrolled in all age groups studied. The decline, however, was exceptionally noticeable in the 18-19 years and 20-21 years age groups -- the ages which generally denote the first years of college. Below is a chart demonstrating the average percent of Hispanics enrolled in school for the different sections of Kansas and for the different age groups.

Table I — Percent of Hispanics Enrolled in School

	16-17 years	18-19 years	20-21 years
Western Kansas	65.0%	24.9%	14.7%
Central Kansas	85.2%	50.5%	14.3%
Eastern Kansas	83.4%	43.6%	33.6%

Hispanic Employment in Public Schools

Although currently the second largest minority group in Kansas public schools, Hispanics are grossly underrepresented as teachers, counselors, administrators and most other occupations in the Kansas school system. This possibly could be one reason for the low graduation rates and school enrollment rates of Kansas Hispanics. While there is no evidence to indicate that non-Hispanic teachers are unable to teach Hispanic children, it has been found that majority teachers sometimes hold negative attitudes toward minority children and that such attitudes can affect student achievement. In addition, the virtual lack of Hispanic role models in the Kansas schools does nothing to bolster Hispanic students' will to achieve in school.

A 1981 statistical publication, Minorities and Women in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), indicates the bleak underrepresentation of Hispanics in the Kansas public school system in 1979. The EEOC sampled 112 school districts of Kansas, including 927 schools. The percent of Hispanic employees in Kansas schools was 1.15 percent, with the majority of Hispanics working as service providers (i.e. custodians and cafeteria workers) and teacher aides. Yet, Hispanic students constituted almost 4 percent of the students in Kansas elementary schools during 1980.

The chart below summarizes the data presented by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Table J

Occupational Employment in Kansas Public School

Job Category	Total Employed	Number of Hispanics	Percent Hispanic
Officials, Administrators and Managers	630	3	.48%
Principals	1,142	5	.35%
Assistant Principals (teachers)	57	-	-
Assistant Principals (not teachers)	274	2	.73%
Elementary Teachers	11,586	83	.72%
Secondary Teachers	11,061	108	.98%
Other Teachers	1,959	16	.82%
Guidance	680	5	.74%
Psychological	217	2	.92%
Librarians	906	2	.22%
Consultants	214	2	.93%
Other Professionals	985	7	.71%
Teacher Aides	2,092	66	3.15%
Technicians	250	4	1.60%
Clerical/Secretarial	2,975	13	.44%
Service Workers	7,173	163	2.27%
Skilled Craft	656	12	1.83%
Laborers, Unskilled	262	1	.38%

APPENDIX A

Table K

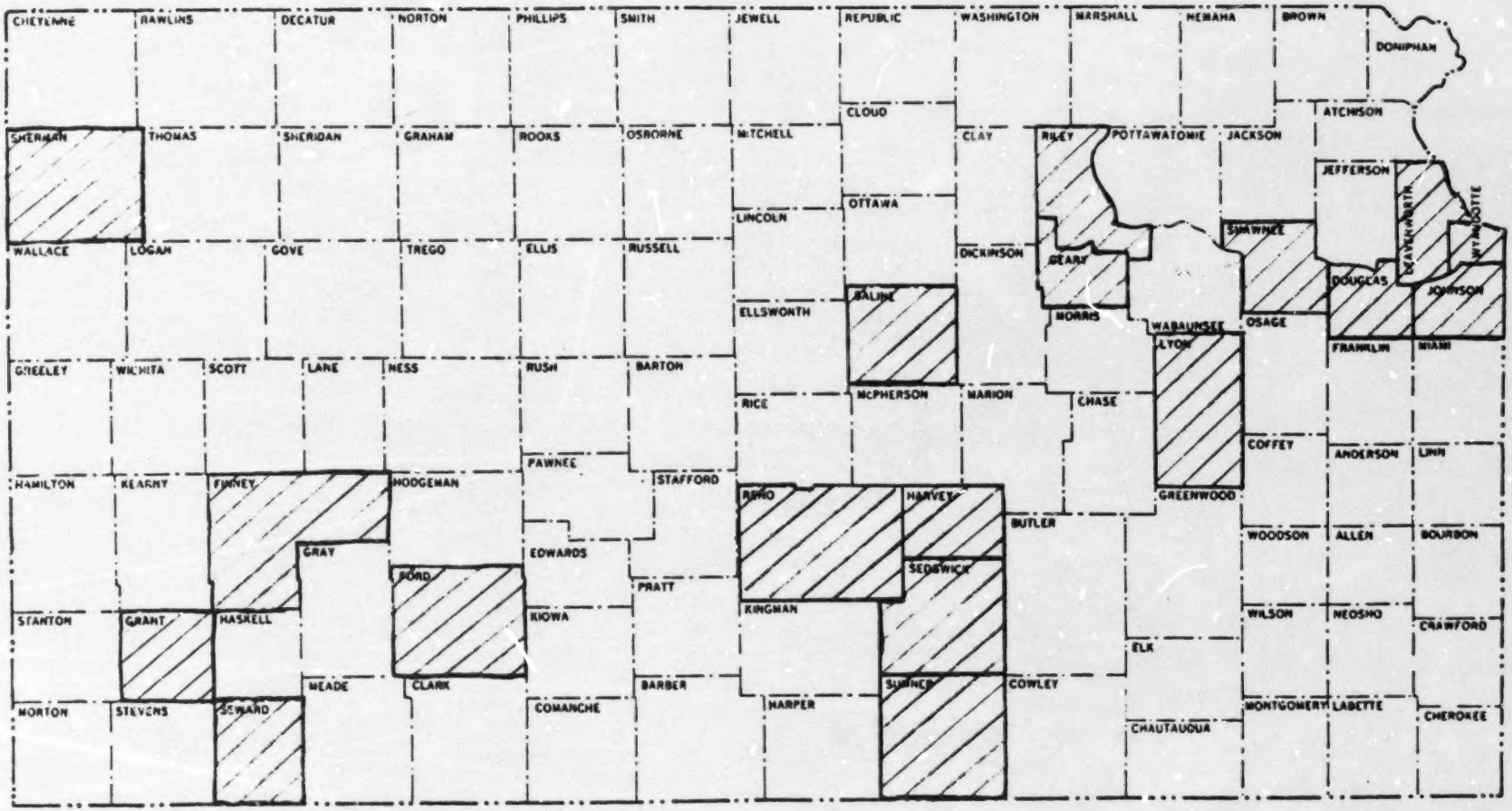
Cities with 1,000 Or More Hispanics

City, County	Hispanic Population	Total Population	Percent Hispanic
Dodge City, Ford	1,447	18,001	8.0%
Emporia, Lyon	1,505	25,287	6.0%
Fort Riley, Riley	1,527	16,063	9.5%
Garden City, Finney	2,968	18,256	16.3%
Hutchinson, Reno	1,850	40,284	4.6%
Kansas City, Wyandotte	7,681	161,093	4.8%
Lawrence, Douglas	1,387	52,738	2.6%
Leavenworth, Leavenworth	1,118	33,656	3.3%
Liberal, Seward	1,488	14,911	10.0%
Newton, Harvey	1,065	16,332	6.5%
Overland Park, Johnson	1,221	81,784	1.5%
Salina, Saline	1,156	41,843	2.8%
Topeka, Shawnee	4,887	115,266	4.2%
Wichita, Sedgwick	9,455	279,272	3.4%

Table L

Cities With 5% Or More Hispanic Concentration

City, County	Hispanic Population	Total Population	Percent Hispanic
Dodge City, Ford	1,447	18,001	8.0%
Emporia, Lyon	1,505	25,287	6.0%
Fort Riley, Riley	1,527	16,063	9.5%
Garden City, Finney	2,968	18,256	16.3%
Goodland, Goodland	343	5,708	6.0%
Hugoton, Stevens	233	3,203	7.3%
Junction City, Geary	987	19,305	5.1%
Liberal, Seward	1,488	14,911	10.0%
Newton, Harvey	1,065	16,332	6.5%
Ulysses, Grant	738	4,629	15.9%
Wellington, Sumner	499	8,212	6.1%



The 18 Counties Focused On In This Report

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